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Summary record of the 15th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 14 March 2016, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Palma Cerna (Vice-President) ..... (Honduras)

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In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Palma Cerna (Honduras), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2016/L.9, E/2016/L.10 E/2016/L.11, E/2016/L.12 and E/2016/L.13)

Draft decision E/2016/L.9: Dates of the forum on financing for development follow-up of the Economic and Social Council at its 2016 session

1. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

2. *Draft decision E/2016/L.9 was adopted.*

Draft decision E/2016/L.10: Theme of the forum on financing for development follow-up of the Economic and Social Council at its 2016 session

3. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

4. *Draft decision E/2016/L.10 was adopted.*

Draft decision E/2016/L.11: Theme of the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

5. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

6. *Draft decision E/2016/L.11 was adopted.*

Draft decision E/2016/L.12: Theme of the 2016 thematic discussion of the Economic and Social Council

7. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

8. *Draft decision E/2016/L.12 was adopted.*

9. **Mr. Chandrtri** (Observer for Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group supported draft decisions E/2016/L.9, E/2016/L.10, E/2016/L.11 and E/2016/L.12. The Group had exercised the utmost flexibility during discussions on the working arrangements for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the forum on financing for development follow-up, with a view to reaching mutually agreed conclusions, as it attached priority to both processes. In that connection, the full period of five days for the forum on financing for development follow-up stipulated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development was appropriate. However, the Group had agreed with the decision to curtail the forum to three days, for practical reasons, given that the high-level debate on the sustainable development goals and the high-level signing ceremony for the Paris Agreement adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were scheduled for 21 and 22 April, respectively. That practical decision did not constitute a precedent and was without prejudice to decisions regarding the timing and duration of future forums.

10. In order to guarantee the success of the 2016 forum on financing for development follow-up, the Group of 77 and China requested that the President should expedite the preparation process and provide Member States with the proposed modalities and programme of the forum at the earliest opportunity. Moreover, while neither the Addis Ababa Action Agenda nor General Assembly resolution 70/192 requires the forum to have a theme, the 2016 forum should deliberate on the need for a theme for the 2017 forum and decide on a theme if necessary, thereby establishing a practice for subsequent forums on financing for development.

11. The Group of 77 and China reaffirmed its commitment to engage constructively with all partners to reach agreeable solutions for the remaining work arrangements for the 2016 session.

12. **Mr. Henderson** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada, said that the discussion on the themes and timing of the high-level political forum and the forum on financing for development follow-up was welcome. However, there was a need for further discussion on how to ensure that future themes were aligned across all Council segments and meetings, in order to support the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

13. All segments and forums of the Council could play an important role in that regard, most specifically by contributing to the high-level political forum through aligned themes. As a case in point, if the youth forum, the partnerships forum, the science and

technology forum and the integration segment aligned their themes with that of the high-level political forum, such alignment would provide the forum with input from a variety of perspectives and the space to focus on high-level follow-up and review. It could also create an opportunity for efficiencies within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the broader United Nations system. In particular, the themes of future forums on financing for development should be aligned with those of future high-level political forums.

14. Australia and Canada would welcome further discussion to that end and stood ready to work with delegations for a strong Council in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Draft decision E/2016/L.13: Date and venue of the first meeting of the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

15. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

16. *Draft decision E/2016/L.13 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.